

**ADAMA SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF APPLIED NATURAL SCIENCE & APPLIED
CHEMISTRY PROGRAM**



***PHYTOCHEMICAL INVESTIGATION AND ANTIMICROBIAL
ACTIVITIES
ON THE LEAVES EXTRACT OF CROTON
MACROSTACHYUS (Blana)***

BY

MESFIN TESFAYE BELIHU

SEPTEMBER 2009

ADAMA SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY, ADAMA

**PHYTOCHEMICAL INVESTIGATION AND ANTIMICROBIAL ACTIVITIES ON
*THE LEAVESEXTRACT OF CROTON MACROSTACHYUS (BISANA)***

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Dedication

**To my wife and child for their co-operation at the time I was away adama
science and Technology University in my M.S. study**

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

^{13}C NMR	Carbon -13 Nuclear Magnetic Resonance
^1H NMR	Proton Nuclear Magnetic Resonance
CC	Column Chromatography
DEPT	Distorsionless Enhancement by Polarization Transfer
FT-IR	Fourier Transform Infra-Red Spectroscopy
NMR	Nuclear Magnetic Resonance
R _f	Retardation Factor
TLC	Thin Layer Chromatography
UV	Ultra Violet
C	Croton
<i>C. spp</i>	Croton species
MDR	Multidrug resistant tuberculosis
MIC	Minimum Inhibitory Concentration
WHO	World Health Organization
AAU	Addis Ababa university
MHA	Muller Hinton Agar

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ABSTRACT

PHYTOCHEMICAL INVESTIGATION AND ANTIMICROBIAL ACTIVITIES ON THE LEAVES EXTRACT OF CROTON MACROSTACHYUS

By; Mesfin Tesfaye

Advisor: Dr. Aman Dekebo

Croton macrostachyus Hocsht. ex Del. (Euphorbiaceae) leaves is one of the 1200 species of *Croton* have been described with biological activities, mainly due to diterpenes, alkaloids and/or other secondary metabolites. These activities account for the traditional use of *Croton* species to treat certain diseases in South America, Asia and Western Africa. Hence the aim of the present study was to investigate phytochemicals of the plant leaves and evaluate the antimicrobial activity of its extracts against bacteria and fungi. The leaf powder *Croton macrostachyus* was successively extracted with *n*-Hexane, chloroform, ethyle acetate and methanol. The crude chloroform, ethyle acetate and methanol extracts obtained from leaves of *Croton macrostachyus* were subjected to phytochemical tests for the presence of secondary metabolites, tannins, cardiac glycoside, alkaloids and flavonoids.etc. In all extracts studied, Flavonoids, tannin, terpenoid, saponins, steroids, cardiac glycoside and alkaloids, were present in the, methanol and chloroform extracts while terpenoid and steroid were detected in chloroform crude extracts and essential oil. The antimicrobial activity of extracts was studied using the disk diffusion method and determination of minimal inhibitory concentration (MIC) value. The antimicrobial activity of *C. macrostachyus* leaves extracts and essential oil was tested against pathogenic bacteria like gram positive bacteria *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Salmonella typhimurium*, and gram negative bacteria *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Escherichia coli* and fungi like *Candida albican*. The highest antibacterial inhibition against *S. aureus* (14mm) and *E. coli* (12mm) were revealed by chloroform and methanol extracts reaspectively. While the least inhibition zone (8mm) has shown against *S. aureus* by ethyle acetates. The antimicrobial assay showed that volatile oil was generally more active on *E. coli* (9 mm) than *S. aureus* (6 mm); whereas higher antifungal activity was observed on *C. albicans* (inhibition diameter (24.20 mm). Repeated use of solvent extraction followed by CC, leaf extract of *C. macrostachyus* yielded two compounds and only one characterized as tetrahydro-2-hydroxymethyl) -6- (tetrahydro-3, 4,5-trihydroxy -6(hydroxymethyl)-2H-pyran-2-yloxy) -2H-pyran-3,4,5 -triol, whose structure was elucidated based on its ¹H-NMR, ¹³C-NMR, FT-IR and DEPT data. Crude extracts and essential oil exhibited reasonable antimicrobial activities. These showed potential as antimicrobial agents and might be used to improve therapeutic efficiency to overcome, rising bacterial and fungal resistance of existing drugs. This study provides some scientific base for the folkloric medicinal use of this plant as remedy for ailments whose causative agents are the pathogens studied. The activities observed could also be attributed to the phytochemicals detected, some of which have been associated with antimicrobial activity.

Keywords: antimicrobial activity, phytochemical investigation *C. macrostachyus* (Euphorbiaceae), Gram-positive organism, Gram-negative organism,

Chapter 1 – Introduction

1.1 Medicinal plants

Historically, some plants have played a significant role for traditional medication. Through observation and experimentation, human beings have learnt about some traditional medicinal plants which used to promote health. The use of these traditional medicinal plants as remedies is not only cost effective but also safe for health. They are also almost free from serious side effects. These traditional medicines are used as health practices, approaches, knowledge and beliefs. They are obtained from plant, animal and mineral based which used for spiritual therapies, being the plants are the most important source for medication. They used to apply singularly or in combination to treat, diagnose and prevent illnesses and maintain well-being (WHO 2001, Mazid, *et.al.* 2012).

Since the people did not have the scientific insight to explain and predict the curative action of plants, in some countries, the use of traditional medicinal plants is often associated with witchcraft and superstition. One example of such an irrational concept is the Doctrine of Signatures, elements of which are found in many of the healing cultures of the world. It is based on the assumption that the appearance of plants may give clues to their medicinal properties. It is interpreted as God's signature on the plant. For instance, Red juice and sap, is associated with blood and menstrual ailments. The yellow flower and alkaloid containing latex of some plant associated with bile and jaundice. It is crude extract used successfully to treat jaundice. The human shape of certain roots also associated with the female form of fertility (Gurib-Fakim, 2006).

Several species of Euphorbiaceae are known in many parts of the world for their toxic and/or medicinal properties (Salatino *et al.*, 2007). Such diversity of effects is a reflection of the variety of secondary metabolites which have already been described for this family. Croton is one of the giant genera of angiosperms, comprising over 1200 species of herbs, shrubs, trees and occasionally vines. Recent studies have estimated that approximately two-thirds of the *Croton* species occur in the New World, the other third being distributed across the Old World (van Ee *et al.*, 2011). It is the second largest genus in Euphorbiaceae, with various species used in folk medicine in many regions of the world.

The predominant genera under the Euphorbiaceae family are *Drypetes*, *Jatropha*, *Macaranga*, *Croton*, *Euphorbia*, *Acalypha*, *Glochidion* and *Macaranga*. A number of the *Croton* species are known for their medicinal qualities especially in Africa, Asia and South America. *Croton* has been found to possess secondary metabolites such as alkaloids, terpenoids, flavanoids and compounds such as diterpenoids. *Croton* spp. are commonly used for the treatment of non communicable diseases such as diabetes, cancers and other ailments such as digestive problems, dysentery, wounds, fevers, constipation, diarrhea, intestinal worms, malaria, pain ulcers, inflammation. The parts that are used for the treatments of the different kinds of disease are the leaves, the roots, the stem barks, the fruit and the seeds (Yibralign 2007).

Based on the medicinal properties of plants of *Croton* genus, the present study aimed to investigate the antimicrobial activity of the extracts isolated from *Croton macrostachyus* belongs to the family Euphorbiaceae. The plant was selected for this study, because it is used as traditional medicine in Negelle-Borena Gujii Zone. The people in these area recommend it, especially its leaf juice, “for healing wounds and blood clotting”. Although, the people use this plant as a traditional medicine for blood clotting and healing wounds, still the chemical component of the plant was not studied. As a result, the researchers are intended to perform chemical and antimicrobial study on the leaves of plant.

1.2 Traditional medicine

Traditional medicine is a vague term, loosely used to distinguish culture-bound health practices from modern or allopathic medicine (WHO, 2003). However, traditional medicine can simply be defined as the application of indigenous beliefs, knowledge, skills and cultural practices concerned with human health (Balunas and Kinghorn, 2005). Some frequently used synonyms are indigenous, unorthodox, alternative, folk, ethno and unofficial medicine. And the use of the term "modern" in reference to non-traditional medicine was advanced on the basis of its tendency to quickly adopt scientific and technological innovations, an advantage that is employed by traditional medicine to a very small extent both traditional and modern medicines have a common objective of healing and preventing disease. However, the two systems differ in the concept of the cause of disease, their approach to healing as well the methods of treatment. Although traditional medicine mostly employs the use of plants or plant parts (ABEBE and

AYEHU 1993), may be used. Traditional medicine is wide spread throughout the world and in fact, it was the only form of health care before the incorporation of modern science into medicine in the early part of the 20th century. Its part of the traditions of each country and its practices are handed down from generation to generation. Moreover, there is a revitalization of interest in herbal products at a global level and the conventional medicine is now beginning to accept the use of scientifically validated botanical source of drugs (Gilani&Rahman, 2005)..

1.3 Justification of this study

The *Croton* species are found in different parts of the world and are known for their medicinal properties. Popular uses of *Croton* include treatment of malaria, fever, external wounds, dysentery, and digestive problems. (Salatino *et al.*, 2007). Some species of *Croton* are known to contain *alkaloids*. Diterpenes a common compound in *Croton* may be represented as clerodanes, cembranoid, halimanes, kauranes, labdanes, phorbol esters, trachylobanes and sarcapetalanes. Volatile oils are present in some of the *Croton* species (Salatino *et al.* 2007). *Some of these compounds present in Croton species have been shown to have antimicrobial properties (Peres et al. 1997, Abo et al. 1999). Evidence from in vitro studies point to the use of essential oils as antimicrobial agents for wide range of pathogenic bacteria strains such as E. coli, Shigella dysentery, Bacillus cereus, S.aureus and Salmonella typhimurium (Burt 2004, Nguefact et al. 2004, Schmidt et al. 2005).* Therefore. The presence of these important phytochemicals in the plant is a scientific justification of the plant use in the traditional treatment against various diseases affecting humans and animals.

1.4 Statement of the problem

Infectious diseases which include typhoid, pneumonia and candidiasis. The Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has proposed monitoring and development of new treatments which encompasses the development of new antimicrobials (Fauci, 1998). Is the leading cause of death worldwide, accounting for nearly one half of all deaths in tropical countries which are also becoming a significant problem in all countries? Microbial infections are great challenge to human health concern and it is even exacerbated by the growing resistance to the conventional drugs. Thus, researchers have resort to find remedy from plants for infectious diseases. Development of new antimicrobial agents is among the proposed solution to solve this problem. In this regard plants can be provided a good alternative in search for new chemicals with a wide range of antibacterial and antifungal activities (Casley-Smith, 1997). This study aimed at screening the leaves part of *C.macrostachyus* for antimicrobial activities, in order to fill the gap in knowledge of their efficacy.

1.5 Objective of the Study

1.5.1. General objective

To investigate the phytochemicals and antimicrobial activities of extract of the leaves of *Croton macrostachyus*.

1.5.2. Specific objectives

- ❖ To extract and isolate phytochemicals from leaves of *Croton macrostachyus* using different techniques
- ❖ To extract essential oil from leaf of plant using hydro-distillation .
- ❖ To test the antimicrobial activities of crude extracts, (chloroform, ethyle acetate and methanol) and essential oil from the plant by disc diffusion method.
- ❖ To characterize the isolated compounds using different spectroscopic techniques (^1H NMR, ^{13}C -NMR, FT-IR and DEPT-135).

Chapter 2 - Literature Review

2.1 Drug resistance pathogens in this study

Different bacteria and fungi were used in the referred studies they were *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Escherichia coli*, *Salmonella typhimurium*, *Salmonella typhosa*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*. For infections to occur, bacterial adhesion is required as well as the host cell surface carbohydrates, which serve as receptors for adhesion. Adherence of bacterial cells to specific receptors such as glycoconjugates and extracellular matrix molecules prevents dislodgement by the host mucociliary defense mechanisms and aid bacterial invasion into cells (Kouki et al. 2011). *E. coli* adhesins bind to the *galactosyl-1-4-galactose* in the host receptor cells. Thus *E. coli* causes many infectious diseases in human such as urinary tract infections and common intestinal diseases (Matias et al. 2011).

The genus *Staphylococcus* is distributed in the environment and is often etiological agent for opportunistic infections in humans and animals. *S. aureus*, *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Listeria innocua*, *Salmonella typhimurium*, *E. coli*, *Shigella dysenteriae*, *Bacillus cereus* and *Staphylococcus aureus* (Burt 2004). Biologically active compounds such as *sonnerianin*, *korberin A* and *B* isolated from the genus *Croton* with specific antibacterial activities against *Mycobacterium smegmatis*, *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Bacillus subtilis*, *E. coli* (McChesney et al. 1991).

Among the harmful microorganisms to man are the pathogenic *fungi*, *bacteria*, which are causative agents for various diseases. Man has therefore developed conventional medicine through which these microbes and the diseases they cause are controlled. However it is evident that modern medicine does not provide the cure to some of the known human diseases. Even though a number of new antibiotics have been produced by pharmacological industries in the last three decades, resistance to these drugs by micro-organisms has increased tremendously. Bacteria for instance, have the genetic ability to transmit and acquire resistance to drugs which are utilised as therapeutic agents (Cohen, 1992).

This resistance is mediated by (i) the acquired genes, whose presence in a cell is usually synonymous with a resistance phenotype; (ii) mutations in resident genes that alter a variety of phenotypes, including alteration of target sites and enhanced efflux mechanisms; or (iii) changes in outer membrane proteins, which limit the access of drugs to the cell (Rasheed and Tenover, 2003).

The resistance factor in these micro-organisms is a cause for concern, considering the number of patients with suppressed immunity, and the emergence of new multi-resistant bacterial strains. In

Kenya, (Okemo *et al.*, (2004) established that the *S. typhi* causing typhoid is a multi-drug resistant (MDR) strain. Similarly, *Shigella* serotypes isolated from patients with diarrhoea in Kwale district showed that 29% of *S. Flexneri* were resistant to tetracycline. Multi-drug resistant enterotoxigenic, enteroinvasive and enteropathogenic *E. coli* were isolated from 346 children with diarrhoeagenic *E. coli*, in Tanzania (Vila, 1999). These strains were resistant to ampicillin, clotrimoxazole and chloramphenicol. These current trends call for renewed strategies in microbial therapy. This involves the development of new treatments, which encompasses development of new antimicrobial agent (Abo *et al.* 1999)

2.2. Phytochemicals present in medicinal Plants

Medicinal plants are rich source of wide variety of secondary metabolites belonging to chemical classes such as *sterols, alkaloids, glycosides, saponins, flavonoids, tannins, and carbohydrates* are generally superior in their anti-microbial activities (Cowan, 1999). These cases of compounds have been found to inhibit among other micro-organisms, *Staphylococcus aureus, Escherichia coli* and *Candida albicans*. Other antimicrobial compounds isolated from plants include coumarins, steroids, crinitol, papaverine, anonaine and mannitol which have inhibitory effects on *B. subtilis, S. aureus, C. albicans, C. utilis, measles*, and HIV (Taniguchi and Kubo, 1993; Kubo *et al.*, 1992).

Different phytochemicals display various mechanisms of action such as increasing colonic water and electrolyte re absorption and inhibiting intestinal motility, while some components have been shown to inhibit specific pathogens (Ahmad *et al.*, 2006). *Saponins* are used by the folkloric remedies of Kashmir (India) in treating wounds, help in blood clotting and enteric ulcers problems (Foster and Duke, 1990). This is because of their ability to cause red blood cells to precipitate and coagulate (Just *et al.*, 1998). The presence of *saponins* shows the potential of the plants to be used to produce mild detergents and intracellular histochemistry staining to allow antibody access to intercellular proteins (Just *et al.*, 1998).

Tannins have stringent properties, hasten the healing of wounds and inflamed mucous membrane (Njoku and Akumefula, 2007). Their astringent property makes them useful in preventing diarrhea and controlling hemorrhage due to their ability to precipitate proteins, mucus and constrict blood vessels. This is the reason why traditional healers use plants rich in tannins to treat wounds and burns since they are able to cause blood clotting. Some *tannins* being

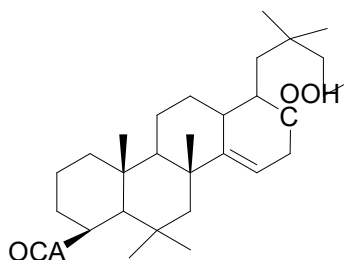
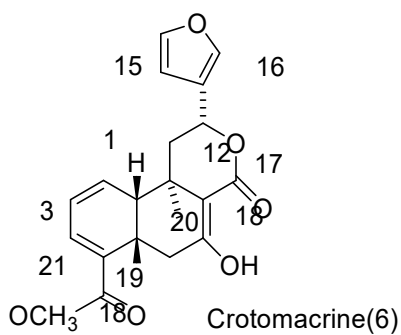
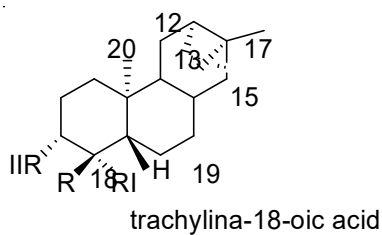
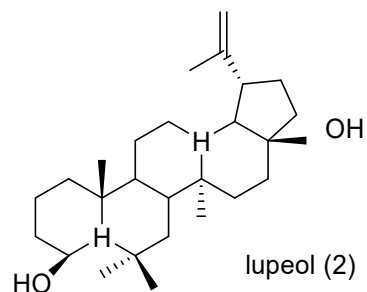
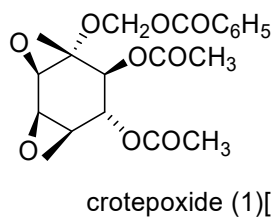
reported to inhibit HIV replication selectively besides the use of diuretics (Argal and Pathak, 2006). This shows how traditional medicinal plants rich in tannins can be used to control this dangerous disease. According to (Chung *et al.*,1998). Many tannin molecules have been shown to reduce the mutagenic activity of a number of mutagens. The growths of many fungi, yeast, bacteria and viruses have been proven to be inhibited by tannins.

Flavonoids are important group of polyphenols widely distributed among the plant flora. Structurally, they are made of more than one benzene ring in its structure (a range of C15 aromatic compounds) and numerous reports support their use as antioxidants or free radical scavengers (Kar, 2007). The compounds are derived from parent compounds known as flavans. Over four thousand flavonoids are known to exist and some of them are pigments in higher plants. Quercetin, kaempferol and quercitrin are common flavonoids present in nearly 70% of plants. Other group of flavonoids includes flavones, dihydroflavons, flavans, flavonols, and anthocyanidins.

Flavonoids are known to contain specific compounds called antioxidants which protect human, animal and plant cells against the damaging effects of free radicals. Imbalance between free radicals and antioxidants leads to oxidative stress which has been associated with inflammation, autoimmune diseases, cancer, Parkinson's disease, aging and arteriosclerosis. It also plays a role in heart diseases and neurodegenerative diseases. *Flavonoids* have also vasodilator activity a property which is useful in improving blood circulation in brain and in Alzheimer disease (WHO 2001, Mazid, *et.al.* 2012).

Terpenoids; have medicinal value such as (*anticarcinogenic, antimalarial, antimicrobial and diuretics activity*). *Terpenoids* have also shown a great potential in treatment against disease causing microorganisms. *Terpenoids* have exhibited antibacterial activity against *E. coli*, *Staphylococcus*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (Kouki *et al.* 2011). *Methicillin-resistant S. aureus*, *Proteus mirabilis* (Santos *et al.*, 2008), *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (Santos *et al.*,2008). *Listeria monocytogene*, *Enterobacter cloacae*, yeast *Candida albicans*, *Aspergillus flavus* (Leandro and Vargas, 2012). Some *Terpenes* isolated from *Croton macrostachyus* including, *Crotonmacrine*, *Crotopoxide*, *3 β -acetoxy tetraxer-14-en-28-oic Acid*, *Trachyloban-18-oic acid*, *Lupeol*, *trachylina-18-oic acid*(8),

neoclerodan-5,10-en-19,6 β ; 20,12-diolie (**9**) 3 α ,19-dihydroxy trachylina (**10**), 3 α ,18,19-trihydroxy trachylina (**11**). Menberu D. M.Sc (1981)



Alkaloids are the largest group of secondary chemical constituents made largely of ammonia compounds comprising basically of nitrogen bases synthesized from amino acid building blocks with various radicals replacing one or more of the hydrogen atoms in the peptidering, most containing oxygen. The compounds have basic properties and are alkaline in reaction, turning red litmus paper blue. In fact, one or more nitrogen atoms that are present in an *alkaloid*, typically as 1°, 2° or 3° amines, contribute to the basicity of the *alkaloid*. The solutions of alkaloids are intensely bitter. These nitrogenous compounds function in the defence of plants against herbivores and pathogens, and are widely exploited as pharmaceuticals, stimulants, narcotics, and poisons due to their potent biological activities. More than 12,000 *alkaloids* are known to exist in about 20% of plant species and only few have been exploited for medicinal purposes).

Quinones are another class of compounds, which are characteristically highly reactive. They are responsible for the brown-ing reaction of cut or injured fruits and vegetables and are known to complex irreversibly with nucleophilic amino acids in proteins often leading to inaction (*Stern et al.*, 1996). For that reason, the potential range of *Quinone* anti-bacterial effects is great.

Anthraquinones; these are derivatives of *phenolic* and *glycosidic* compounds. They are solely derived from anthracene giving variable oxidized derivatives such as *anthrones* and *anthranols* (*Maury et al.*, 2008; *Firn*, 2010). Other derivatives such as *chrysophanol*, *aloe-emodin*, *rhein*, *salinosporamide*, *luteolin* and *emodin* have in common a double hydroxylation at positions C-1 and C-8. Basic structures of some pharmacologically important plant derived anthraquinones found in *C. macrostachyus* plant.

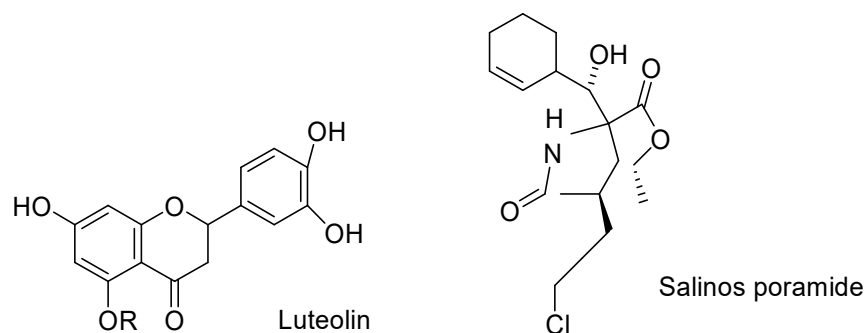
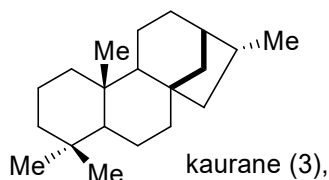
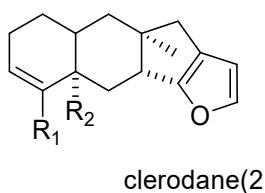
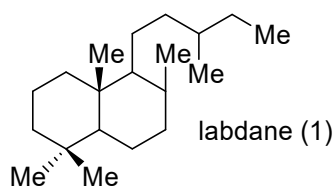


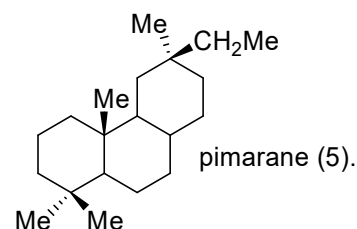
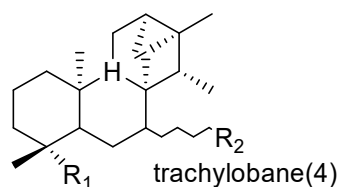
Fig-2 Some compounds from *C. macrostachyus* plant

According to the WHO, medicinal plants would provide the best source to obtain a variety of drugs (Santos *et al.*, 1995). About 80% of individuals in developing countries use traditional medicine which has compounds derived from medicinal plants. Such compounds as *tannins*, *terpenoids*, *alkaloids*, and *flavonoids*, which are produced by plants as secondary metabolites have been found in vitro to have antimicrobial properties (Cowan, 1999). Since many of these compounds are currently available as unregulated botanical preparations and their use by the public is increasing rapidly, clinicians need to consider the consequences of patients self-medicating with these preparations. Therefore there is need to investigate such plants to understand better, their properties, safety and efficacy.

2.3 The genus *Croton*

Croton is an extensive flowering plant genus in the 'spurge' family, Euphorbiaceae. The common names for this genus are **rushfoil** and *croton*, but the latter also refers to *Codiaeum variegatum*. The generic name comes from the Greek κροτον (*kroton*), which means "tick" and refers to the shape of the seeds of certain species. (Gledhill, D. (2008) The genus *croton* is particularly rich in secondary metabolites like alkaloids, Terpenoids, and flavonoids. The most common class of compounds of *croton* is represented by *diterpenoids*. Apparently, *clerodane* is the widest spread class of *diterpenoids* in *Croton*, which has been found in species from America (e. g. *C. cajucara*), Africa (e. g. *C. macrostachyus*) and Asia (e. g. *C. tiglium*). The genus is also rich in Constituents with biological activities, chiefly *diterpenoids* such as *labdane* (**1**) *clerodane* (**2**), *kaurane* (**3**), *trachylobane* (**4**) and *pimarane* (**5**).





As most *Euphorbiaceae*, *Croton* species may contain *latex*, which is a characteristics of medicinal properties. Several *Croton* species have a long role in the traditional use of medicinal plants in Africa, Asia and South America. Popular uses include treatment of cancer, constipation,

2.4 Medicinal Importance of *Croton* Species.

Croton can be a tree, shrub or herbaceous plant which grows in tropical and warm regions. The genus *Croton* belongs to the subfamily *Crotonoideae* of family *Euphorbiaceae*, one of the largest families of plants, often characterized by being monoecious. The predominant genera under the *Euphorbiaceae* family are *Drypetes*, *Jatropha*, *Macaranga*, *Croton*, *Euphorbia*, *Acalypha*, *Glochidion* and *Macaranga*.

A number of the *Croton* species are known for their medicinal qualities especially in Africa, Asia and South America. *Croton* has been found to possess secondary metabolites such as *alkaloids*, *terpenoids*, *flavanoids* and compounds such as *diterpenoids*. *Croton spp.* are commonly used for the treatment of non communicable diseases such as diabetes, cancers and other ailments such as digestive problems, dysentery, wounds, fevers, constipation, diarrhea, intestinal worms, malaria, pain ulcers, inflammation. The parts that are used for the treatments of the different kinds of disease are the leaves, the roots, the stem barks, the fruit and the seeds (Yibralign 2007).

Some of the *Croton spp.* are found in different regions; *C. zambesicus*(*Tannins Saponins, Anthraquinones ,Alkaloids*) (Abo *et al.* 1999) in Nigeria; *C. macrostachyus* (*alkaloids, terpenoids , Saponins flavanoids and tanine*)(Wagate *et al.* 2010), in Kenya; *C. tiglium*

proteins)(Shalid *et al.* 2008) Pakistan; *C. campestris* (Tannin, phlobaphenes, Flavones, Flavonols, Xanthones, Chalcones, Aurones, Flavononols, Catechins, Flavonones, Alkaloids and Terpenes) (Matias *et al.* 2011), *C. zehntneri* (Rodrigues *et al.* 2009), *C. cajucara* (Alviano *et al.* 2005), *C. urucurana* (Acetyl aleuritic acid β -sitosterol-O-glucoside Sonderianin Steroids (stigmasterol, β -sitosterol, campesterol) CatechinGallacatechin)(Peres *et al.* 1997); and *C. sonderianus* (ent-Beyer-15-en-18-oic acid)(McChesney *et al.* 1991) in Brazil

2.5 Botanical description of *Croton macrostachyus*.

Selection of candidate plant species for biological activity screening can be approached in various ways. They include: a chemotaxonomic approach which is based on correlation between plant taxonomy and the occurrence of specific chemical compounds, random selection approach in which plants or plant parts are randomly selected and then subjected to biological screening and ethnobotanical approach in which plants used in traditional medicine are screened for biological activity (Liu 2011). Several researchers have reported that the ethno botanical approach is the best option.(Chariandy *et al.* 1999). The scientific discipline, ethno botany, is utilizing the impressive array of knowledge assembled by indigenous peoples about the plant and animal products they have used to maintain health.

Plants also known to have special ability to synthesize aromatic substances, most of which include alkaloids, quinones, flavones, tannins, phenols or their oxygen-substituted derivatives (Agrawal *et al.*, 2012).. Such a plant will have its parts including leaves, roots, rhizomes, stems, barks, flowers, fruits, grains or seeds, employed in the control or treatment of a disease condition and therefore contains chemical components that are medically active. (Liu, 2004).

The genus *Croton* belongs to the family Euphorbiaceae (which commonly known as the ‘spurge’ family) (Negash, 2010). It is known as Bisana’ (in Amharic) (Karunamoorthi and Ilango, 2010). and consists of approximately 1300 species of trees, shrubs and herbs distributed in tropical and subtropical regions of the world (Salatino *et al.*, 2007).

Croton macrostachyus which is called ‘rush foil’ or ‘broad-leaved croton is a multipurpose, medium sized, drought-deciduous pioneer tree. It is a tall tree found in tropical regions of

Africa. Elsewhere in Africa, *C. macrostachyus* has been reported to occur in Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central Africa, Ghana, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zaire, and Zambia (Friis, 1992). It is native to Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda. In Ethiopia, *C. macrostachyus* occurs in regions between 1300 and 2500 m with annual rainfall ranging between 750 and 2000 mm. The tree is quite persistent, regenerating large numbers of coppices or shoots, even when it is repeatedly lopped or degraded. Provided that environmental and soil conditions are favorable.

C. macrostachyus does establish well and can grow quite fast on reasonably good and well-drained soils, but prefers red or loam soils to verti soils. The latter soils are known for their shrink-swell properties (during the dry and wet seasons, respectively), and for getting waterlogged during the rainy season (Negash, 2010). *C. macrostachyus* is a large tree with cylindrical trunk. The stem is more or less pyramidal in shape with widespread branches. The stem is gray clear, smooth and fissure with age. Leaves are almost as heart-shaped large that long, they have 10 to 15 cm of length; they are flexible, green or brunette according to the season and present some prominent ribs. Flowers are regrouped in inflorescence on stems of about 25 cm of long. They are visible but their life span is very short. They are colour creamy and slightly fragrant yellow. Fruits are regrouped along an axis (Stuart and Graham, 1973).



Fig4 Croton macrostachyus

Website <http://www.prota.org>

date accessed 22/11/08

Many parts of the *croton macrostachyus* have medicinal value including boiled leaf decoction is drunk or ashes taken orally as treatment for cough; juice from fresh leaves is applied on wounds to hasten clotting. Roots are used as an anthelmintic for tape worm, for malaria, venereal diseases, as antidiabetic, and the seeds are widely used as purgative, for constipation and for stomach worms. Bark from stems and roots is boiled in water and newly born babies are bathed in the mixture as a remedy for skin rash. The leaves of the tree are also used for fodder and the tree is used for shade. The stem bark and the tips of the different branches of the tree are used for the treatment of malaria and hepatitis indifferent parts of Ethiopia, particularly in Gojjam in the Amhara Regional State.

Chapter 3 -Materials and Methods

3.1 Study area

The studies included were in vitro studies carried out with a human bacteril pathogen. The species under the genus *Croton* were selected, Studies on the *Croton macrostachyus* Del extract constitunet and tested against common bacteria and fungi, infections by using standered drug test. The experimental study was done from April 2008 to September 2009EC. In vitro antibacterial test was conducted in Oromia public Health Research, Capacity building & quality Assurance Laboratory Center, Adama. And extraction, TLC analyses, CC, Phytochemistry Test and Extraction of volatile oil by hydro-distillation was performed in Organic Chemistry laboratory at Adama Science and Technology University, Adama. ¹H-NMR ¹³C-NMR FT-IR and DEPT-135 spectra were recorded in the, NMR laboratory AAU, Ethiopia.

3.2 Plant material collection

The leaves part of the *Croton macrostachyus* was collected from Oromia Regional State, Guji Zone, Liben Woreda, particularly from Negela-Borena district, which is 600km from Addis

Ababa on April 2008. Voucher specimen is deposited in the National Herbarium, Ethiopia, Department of Biology, and AAU. (Voucher no. AD 001). It has a latitude and longitude of 50°20'N 39°35'E / 5.3330 N 39.5830 E, respectively. An altitude of about 1,475 meters above sea level and the annual average rainfall is 1800 mm with an elevation of 2,088 meters above sea level. The annual average temperature is 21°C.

3.3 Extraction and Isolation

3.3.1 Solvent extraction at room temperature

Air dried leaves powder (0.3kg) of *Croton macrostachyus* was first soaked with 1L n-hexane for 72 h at room temperature. The mixtures were filtered and the filtrate was concentrated under reduced pressure and temperature of 40°C using rotary evaporator and afforded (3g) deep green crude extract. The marc, remaining in the extraction flask after exhaustive extraction of n-hexane, was dried and 0.3kg of powder was extracted with 1L chloroform after soaking for 72 h at room temperature. Then the extract was concentrated in rotary evaporator and afforded (4g) deep blue crude extract. The marc remaining was then extracted using ethyl acetate, following similar procedure and yielded (5g) dark green of crude extract. Lastly, 1L of methanol was added to the marc in the flask and gave (3.75g) deep black crude extract. The % yield of each extracts calculated and the result showed in (Table 1).

3.3.2 Hydro-distillation

Steam distillation is the most well-known technique for extracting essential oil from plants. In the steam distillation of essential oils, isolated using Clevenger apparatus. During the present work about 180g of powdered leaves of *C. macrostachyus* was placed into the distillation flask and steam distilled using Clevenger apparatus for 3h yielded 23.6 g (13.1%) colorless oil. The recovered mixture was allowed to settle and the oil was withdrawn (Gursale et al., 2010). After the hydro distillation process, anhydrous sodium sulfate was added to the isolated essential oil to remove residual water. The product was collected and separated using separatory funnel.

3.4 Thin layer chromatographic (TLC) analysis of crude extracts.

When each solvent extracts was subjected to thin layer chromatography (TLC) were used showed spots on TLC upon spraying 1% vanillin sulfuric acid and after heating for a few minutes were used to detect the bands on the TLC plates. The movement of the active compound was expressed by its retention factor (RF), values were calculated. On the bases of this analysis of ethyl acetate crude extract on TLC solvent system hexane: ethyl acetate (9:1) showed four colored spots. Hence, further CC would be continued when obtained the result.

TLC analysis of the ethyl acetate extract, **Insolvent system I**, hexane: ethyl acetate (10:0), 2 spots were visible Rf values 0.10 and 0.40. **In solvent system II**, hexane: ethyl acetate, (9:1), 2 spots were detected Rf values 0.82 and 0.90. **In solvent system III**, hexane: ethyl Acetate, (8:2), 4 spots were detected Rf values 0.05, 0.25, 0.80 and 0.90 **Insolvent system IV**, hexane: ethyl acetate (7:3), 2 spots were visible Rf values 0.07 and 0.81. **In solvent system V**, hexane: ethyl acetate (6:4), 2 spots were obtained having Rf of 0.03 and 0.94.

3.5 Isolation and purification of compounds

On the bases of TLC result a portion (5 gm) of ethyle acetate crude extract was adsorbed onto 5gm of silica gel and loaded into a chromatographic column (CC) packed with 120 g of silica gel. The column was then eluted with hexane (100%). Hexane, ethylacetate and methanol mixture gradually increasing the polarity (from 100% to 0.1%). Then, after the column was eluted using the following solvent systems; n- hexane (100%): fractions 1-5, hexane:ethyl acetate (9:1):fractions 6-13, hexane:ethyl acetate (8:2): fractions14-21, hexane:ethyl acetate (7:3): fractions 22-29, hexane: ethyl acetate (1:1):fractions 30-31, and ethylacetate (100%): fractions32,ethylacetate:methanol(9:1)fraction33-37,ethyl acetate;methanol(8:2) fraction 33-37, ethyl acetate:methano(7:3), fractions 38-42, ethyl acetate:methanol(1:1), 43-47) and methanol (100%): fraction 48. Totally 48 fractions were collected each 50ml.

Out of 48 fractions which were collected using the solvent systems increased polarity? Fraction F-15 was obtained from hexane; ethyleacetate which shows single spot on TLC plate. Fractions C-34 and C-35 were combined by observing their TLC spots. In addition fraction 40 also showed characteristic coloured spots on TLC using the solvent system ethyl acetate: methanol (7:3) and upon spraying 1% vanillin sulphuric acid and after heating for a few minutes. However, the TLC examination showed twospots. Based on this TLC examination this fraction was not pure. The extract was collected by decantation and the remaining residue, which was not soluble in petroleum ether and afforded 21.25mg compound **CM-F40**. Fractionation of ethyle acetate extract on column chromatography afforded two pure compounds and only one compound is characterized as CM-F40.

3.5. Phytochemicals screening on leaves of *C.macrostachyus*

Following botanical identification of the selected plant crude extract (chloroform, ethyle acetate, methanol and essential oil) was prepared from the freshly collected material for the intended array of biological test systems. Portion of the same extract that was subjected for the biological screening was used for the identification of the major secondary metabolites, like tannins,

alkaloid, steroids, saponin and flavonoideetc were carried out according to the methods described by (Evans', 1996), Harborne, (1973, 1984), the results are presented in (Table 4)

3.5.1 Test for alkaloids: About 0.5g of the leaf extracts were stirred with about 5 ml of dilute hydrochloric acid separately and filtered. Each filtrate was tested with the following reagents:

3.5.1.1 Dragendroff's test: Few drops of Dragendroff's reagent (solution of potassiu bismuth iodide) were added to each filtrate and observed for the formation of orange yellow precipitate which may indicate the presence of alkaloids.

3.5.1.2 Mayer's test:-Few drops of Mayer'sreagent (Potassium mercuric iodide solution) were added to each filtrate and observed for the formation of white or cream colour precipitate which may indicate the presence of alkaloids

3.5.2 Test for flavonoids: To 0.5 g portion of crude extract 10 mL of ethyl acetate was added and heated with a steam bath for 3 min. The mixture was fil-tered and 4 mL of the filtrate was shaken with 1 mL of dilute ammonia solution and a yellow coloration was observed (Sofowora, 1993).

3.5.3 Test for Phenols: 0.5 g of each of crude extracts extracts were put in a different test tube and treated with a few drops of 2% of FeCl₃; bluish green or black coloration indicated the presence of phenols (Harborne, 1998).

3.5.4 Test for Tannins: 0.5 g of each crude extract was boiled in 10 mL of water in a test tube and then filtered. A few drops of 0.1% ferric chloride was added to give brownish green or a blue-black coloration (Ayoola et al., 2008).

3.5.5 Test for Saponins :(Froth) To 0.5 g of each solvent fraction of C.macrostachyus leaves, 2 ml of chloroform was added. Then, 3ml concentrated sulfuric acid was carefully added to form a layer. A reddish brown coloration of the interface indicates the presence of terpenoids

3.5.6 Test for Anthraquinones: To 0.5 g of each crude extract 10 mL of benzene was added and shaken and then filtered. 0.5 mL of 10% ammonia solution was added to the filtrate and the mixture was shaken well and the presence of the violet color in the layer phase indicated the presence of the anthraquinones (Evans', 1996).

3.5.7 Test for cardiac glycosides (Keller-Killiani test) To 0.5 g of each fraction diluted to 5 ml in water was added 2 ml of glacial acetic acid containing one drop of ferric chloride solution. This was underlayed with 1 ml of concentrated sulfuric acid. A brown ring at the interface indicated the presence of a deoxysugar characteristic of cardenolides. A violet ring may appear below the brown

ring, while in the acetic acid layer a greenish ring may form just above the brown ring and gradually spread throughout this layer

3.5.8 Test for Steroids: 0.5 g of each crude extracts was dissolved in 5 mL of methanol. 1 mL of the extract was treated with 0.5 mL of acetic anhydride and cooled in ice. This mixture with 0.5 mL of chloroform and 1 mL of concentrated sulphuric acid was then added carefully by means of a pipette. At the separation level of the two liquids, a reddish-brown ring was formed, as an indication of the presence of steroids (Harborne, 1998)

3.5.9 Test for Terpenoids: 0.5 g of each (chloroform, methanol and water) crude powder was separately dissolved in 5 mL of methanol. 2 mL of the extract was treated with 1 mL of 2, 4-dinitrophenylhydrazine dissolved in 100 mL of 2M HCl. A yellow-orange coloration was observed as an indication of Terpenoids (Sofowora, 1993).

3.6. Antimicrobial assay

3.6.1 Test Organisms:

in vitro for antimicrobial assay by using the paper disc diffusion method against. The bacterial and fungal microbes used include *Staphylococcus aureus* (*S. aureus*)(ATTC 25923) (gram +ve), *Escheria coli* (*E.coli*) (ATTC 25922)(gram –ve) *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (*K. Pneumonia*) (ATTC700603) (gram –ve) and *Salmonella typhimurium* (*S. typhimurium*)(13311) (gram +ve) and *Candida albicans* (*C. albicans*) (ATCC 90028) fungus. All species were isolates obtained from patient specimens visiting Oromia public Health Research, Capacity building & quality Assurance Laboratory Center, Adama. Bacteria were maintained at 4°C on nutrient agar plates before use. The fungus was maintained on inhibitory mould agar at room temperature.

3.6.2 Testing for antibacterial activity:

Antibacterial activity was used to determine the growth inhibition of bacteria by the plant extract (chloroform, ethylacetate, methanol and essential oil. The tests were carried out by using a stock concentration of 500 mg/ml prepared by dissolving 1.0 g of the extract in 2 ml of distilled water. Nutrient agar was prepared and 25 ml each was poured into sterile petri dishes. This was allowed to solidify and dry. Using a sterile cork-borer of 9 mm diameter, three holes (cups) per plate were made in the agar and they were inoculated with 0.5ml over night suspension of the bacteria/fungus. There after, the wells (holes) were filled with the extract solution. This was done in triplicate and the plates were inoculated at 27°C for 18hrs. The antibacterial activities were observed and measured using a transparent ruler and recorded if the zone of inhibition was 10 mm (*Alviano et al. 2005*).

3.6.3 Testing for antifungal activity:

Sterilized paper discs were transferred to MHA plate's seeded with bacteria and incubated at 37 °C for 24 h. All the tests were performed in triplicate. The leaf crude extracts, volatile oil were taken to test the sensitivity towards four bacteria. From Whatman-No.1 filter paper discs of about 6 mm in diameter was placed in a beaker covered with aluminum foil and sterilized in an oven at 180 °C for 1h. Then 10 µl and 20 µl of solution of compounds were pipetted to the discs in three replications. After allowing the solvent to evaporate, the paper discs impregnated with the sample solutions were then transferred with sterile forceps to potato dextrose agar seeded with spore suspension of test fungi as described above. The Petri dishes were incubated at 27 °C 3 days. The entire test was performed in duplicate (Lall and Meyer, 1999).

3.7 Data analysis

The results are described in the narrative and collected in the tables.

Chapter 4 Results and Discussion

4.1 Extraction Yield The extraction yield is a measure of the solvent efficiency to extract specific components from the original material. The percentage yield of crude extract in respective solvent was recorded in Table 1. It could be calculated according to the method as follows (Zhang *et al.*, 2007).

$$(\%) \text{ Extracts of yield} = \frac{\text{wt of crude}}{\text{wt of sample}} \times 100$$

Table 1:-The percentage yield of different extracts of *C.macrostachyus* of leaves

Solvent extracts	Amount of solvent(ml)	Wt of crude extracts(g)	Extract colors	(%)yield
n-Hexane	1000	3.00	deep green	1.00%
Chloroform	1000	4.00	deep blue	1.36%
Ethyl acetate	1000	5.05	dark green	1.68%
.Methanol	1000	3.75	deep black	1.25%

Generally, different percentage yield of crude extracts were obtained from *C.macrostachyus*. The percentage yields for this plant is depicted in (Table1). In this study, the highest yield of crude extract (1.68 %) was obtained from ethyl acetate extract which followed by chloroform (1.36 %). However, the lowest yield (1.00%) was obtained from hexane (Table1). In this study. These observed variations in the presence of the phytochemicals may be due to the choice of solvent used in extraction. During extraction, solvents may have diffused into the plant material and solubilised compounds with similar polarity.

4.3 Preliminary phytochemical screening

The preliminary phytochemical screenings on leaves (chloroform, ethyl acetate and methanol) extracts and essential oil were tested, in this study. *Saponins, tannins, alkaloids, flavonoids, terpenoids* and *phenol*. Compounds were revealed to be present in leaves extract of *C.macrostachyus* (Table 3). This shows that the plant constituents which might have high level

of medicinal values (Oloyed, 2011). This could be responsible for the versatile medicinal properties of plant.

Table 2: Preliminary phytochemical screening of solvent fractions of *Croton macrostachyus* leaves

Secondary metabolites	<i>Chloroform Extracts</i>	<i>Ethylacetet Extracts</i>	<i>Methanol Extracts</i>	<i>Essentialoil Extracts</i>
Alkaloids	+	+	+	+
Saponins	-	-	+	-
Steroids	+	+	+	+
Terpenoids	+	+	-	+
Flavonoids	-	-	+	-
tannins,	+	-	+	-
Phenols	-	+	-	-
Cardiac Glycosides	-+	+	+	-

Key : (+) = the presence of phytochemical constituents

(-) = the absence of phytochemical constituents

The results from the phytochemical screening revealed the presence of *tannins*, *saponins*, *alkaloids* and *phenols*.

The presence of pharmacologically useful substances such as *tannins*, *flavonoids*, *alkaloids*, *saponins* among other pharmacologically active elements (Table 2) leaf of *C. macrostachyus* as revealed by phytochemistry confirms the diverse claims and application of parts of the plant in treatment of ailments (Haristoy *et al.*, 2005). Several plants which are rich in tannins have been shown to possess antibacterial activities against a number of organism's *saponnins* though are haemolytic on red blood cells, are harmless when taken orally and they have beneficial properties of lowering cholesterol levels in the body (Amos- Tautua *et al.*, 2011). *Alkaloids* have been shown to possess both antibacterial (Erdemogli *et al.*, 2009) and antidiabetic (Constantino *et al.*, 2003) properties and useful for such activities. *Phenols* and phenolic compounds have

been extensively used in disinfections and remain the standard with which other bactericides are compared (Uwumarongie *et al.*, 2007).

Thus, the antibacterial activities exhibited by the secondary metabolites: *tannins*, *saponins*, *alkaloids* and *phenols* may be responsible for the antimicrobial activity of the extract. However, the present result reveals that the use of *C.macrostachyus* as an antimicrobial agent is limited. Since only the methanol extracts of leaf exhibited major antimicrobial effect on the microbes used in this study as compared to the ethyleactate extracts (Tables 3) because more organic compounds were leached in this solvent. The methanol extract of leaves part of *C.macrostachyus* exhibited antibacterial activities against *Esherichia coli*. This may be due to *alkaloids* and *saponins* being largely present in the methanol leaf extract. *Alkaloids* are basically Nitrogen containing naturally occurring compounds commonly found to have antimicrobial properties due to their ability to intercalate with the DNA of microorganisms.

Terpenes and *steroids* which are mainly present in essential oils whose antimicrobial activities have been recognized for many years (Hammer *et al.*, 1999). The essential oils which contain the *terpenes* and *steroids* with other compounds have been known to have diverse therapeutic uses such as the management of upper respiratory tract, urinary tract, and digestive tract infections. The *in vitro* antimicrobial screening of the extracts showed considerable inhibition against almost all the test organisms except for *E.coli* that showed resistance at ethyle acetate concentration of the extract. It can also be observed that the extracts exhibited greater zone of inhibition on *S.aureus*, *C.albicans* even at the lowest concentration as compared to the standard drug even though their concentrations are not comparable (Table 3). *Steroids* was found to be present in the all the sequential extracts and essential oil of *C.macrostachyus* leaf. However, the current study showed that *Cardiac glycoside* was present only ethyle acetate and methanol crude extracts of *C.macrostachyus*'s plant leaves.

The results of the present study also supplement the folkloric usage of the studied plants which possess several known and unknown bioactive compounds with bio-activity. As known in traditionally the use of this plant at local people as “stop bleeding and healing wounds”, researchers were observed during *in vitro* phytochemical screening the *saponin* content in the plant might be high in the leaves of this plant. Because, the plant *saponins* generally help humans

to fight fungal infections, combat microbes. They also bind blood cholesterol, thereby reducing heart problems but the most exciting and outstanding prospect for *saponins* are how they inhibit and kill cancer cells. It has also been reported that they do so without destroying normal cells in the process, as is the mode of some cancer fighting drugs. Therefore, the phytochemical screening result reveals that the presence of these phytochemical constituents supports the use of *C. macrostachyus* medications and it is probable that these phytochemicals are responsible for the healing properties of this plant.

4.4 Structural Elucidation of Compound CM-F40

The Ethyl acetate extract of the leaves of *C. macrostachyus* was subjected to a series of chromatographic techniques, leading to the isolation of a compound CM-F40 yield (21.25mg). Compound CM-F40 is amorphous, deep reddish with observed melting point value of and obtained from CC of ethyl acetate extract. For isolation the best mobile phase selected by was ethyl acetate: methanol (7:3) and its R_F value was determined as 0.72.

The FT-IR spectrum of the compound displayed absorption bands indicating the presence of hydroxyl (3390 cm^{-1}). The absorption band at 2924 cm^{-1} due to C-H stretching and absorption band at 1266 & 1044 were due to C-O stretches

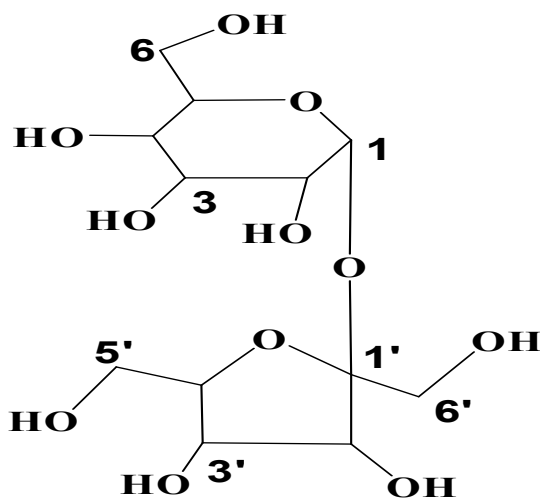
Proton NMR spectral data (Appendix 1) indicated the presence of oxygenated methine protons. The peaks at δ 5.5, δ 5.0, δ 3.4 and δ 3.1 are the peaks of oxygenated methine protons. The signals appeared as a singlet at δ 2.5 & δ 2.9 are the OH protons of the sugar.

Table3 ^{13}C NMR, DEPT-135, ^1H NMR spectral data of the compound CM-F40 with literature reports (*Z. mobilis* levansucrase 2009)

Group	Carbon No.	^{13}C -NMR δ data	Reference data	DEPT-135	^1H NMR	Type of carbon
Glucose	1	96.87	92.81	Up	5.0	CH
	2	81.1	74.92	Up	3.1	CH ₂
	3	72.8	72.38	Up		CH
	4	70.6	82.02	Up		CH
	5	70.2	72.88	Up		CH ₂
	6	63.1	61.39	Down		CH ₂
Fructose	1'	62.7	61.76	down	5.5	CH ₂
	2'	104.5	105.80	quaternary	3.4	-
	3'	82.7	79.57	Up		CH
	4'	76.8	75.40	Up		CH
	5'	74.8	84.50	Up		CH ₂
	6'	63.2	64.39	Down		CH ₂

The ^{13}C -NMR and DEPT-135 spectra of compound CM-F40 revealed that showed the presence of 12 signals corresponding to 12 carbon atoms. Six of them were resonated at δ 96.87, 81.1, 72.8, 70.6, 70.2 & 63.1 respectively were assigned to C-1, C-2, C-3, C-4, C-5, C-6, while six carbon atoms appeared at δ 104.5, 82.7, 76.8, 74.8, 63.2 & 62.7 were assigned to C-1', C-2', C-3, C-4', C-5', C-6' respectively. Comparing ^{13}C NMR (Appendix.2) and DEPT-135 (Appendix.3) spectral data.

Further confirmation of its identity was obtained from DEPT spectral data displayed three negative peaks down which indicates the presence of three CH_2 groups in the compound. All the information derived from the spectral data was characterized as tetrahydro-2-(hydroxymethyl)-6-(tetrahydro-3,4-dihydroxy-2,5-bis(hydroxymethyl)furan-2-yloxy)-2H-pyran-3,4,5-triol, whose structure was elucidated based on its ^1H NMR, ^{13}C -NMR, DEPT-135 and by comparison with literature value (Z. mobilis levansucrase 2009).



tetrahydro-2-(hydroxymethyl)-6-(tetrahydro-3,4-dihydroxy-2,5-bis(hydroxymethyl)furan-2-yloxy)-2H-pyran-3,4,5-triol,

Figure 2 Proposed structure of Compound CM-F40.

4.5 Analysis of antimicrobial activities on *C.macrostachyus*

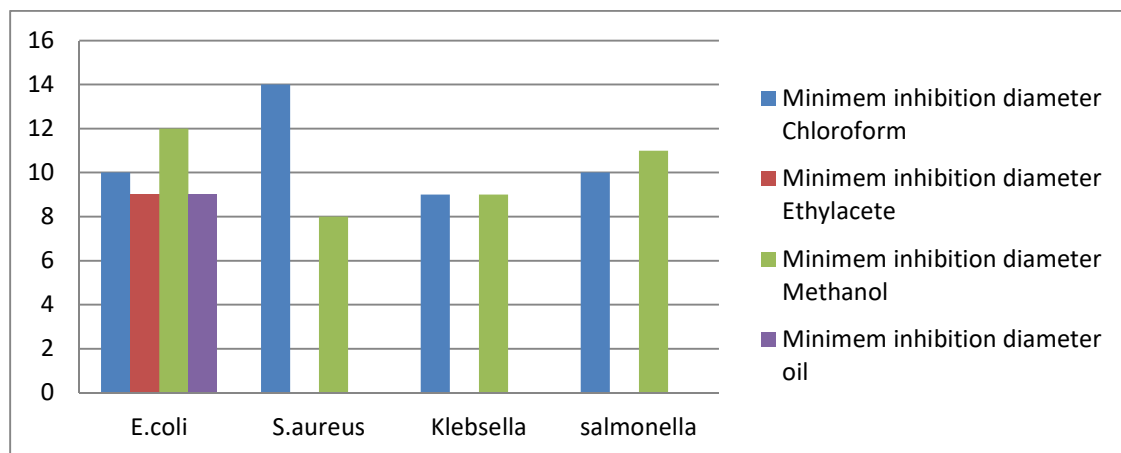
Microbial infections are great challenge to human health concern and it is even exacerbated by the growing resistance to the conventional drugs. Thus, researchers have resort to find remedy from plants for infectious diseases. Development of new antimicrobial agents is among the proposed solution to solve this problem. In this regard plants can be provided a good alternative in search for new chemicals with a wide range of antibacterial and antifungal activities (Casley-Smith, 1997). *C.macrostachyus* is traditionally known plant for healing wounds and blood clotting. Its, crude extracts and essential oil, were taken to test the sensitivity in vitro against four bacterial species (Table 4).

Table 4 Growth inhibition of *C.macrostachyus* extracts against selected bacterial & fungai pathogens

	<i>E.coli</i>	<i>S.aureus</i>	<i>Klebsella</i>	<i>salmonella</i>	<i>C.albicans</i>
<i>Chloroform</i>	+	+	+	+	+
<i>Ethylacete</i>	+	-	-	-	+
<i>Methanol</i>	+	+	+	+	+
<i>Essentialoil</i>	+	-	-	-	+

Key; (+): growth inhibition (-): no growth inhibition

Table 5 *C.macrostachyus* extracts against bacterial pathogens



The antibacterial tests showed that all of the test samples clearly indicate that a considerable antibacterial activity against the bacterial species used in the study. As whole Chloroform crude extract was found to be the most active extract for all the tested bacteria followed by methanol. The chloroform and methanol extracts were significantly active against *E. coli* and *S. aureus* had inhibition zones of above (12mm). The antimicrobial assay showed that volatile oil was generally less active on *E. coli* (8mm) than *S. aureus* (9mm); whereas higher antifungal activity was observed on *C.albicans* (inhibition diameter (24.20) mm).The antifungal activities of other crude extracts were followed by methanol, ethyl acetate and chloroform, respectively.

The present study clearly indicated that methanol and chloroform extract of *C.macrostachyus* could able to inhibit all test bacteria. However, the degree of their inhibition pattern is different this may be because of the difference in bacterial strain and the kind of solvent used. In this study, chloroform extract has shown the lowest inhibition zone against *Klebsella* organism and the highest inhibition zone was seen in *S. aureus*. The observed difference in antibacterial activities of extracts between *Klebsella* and *S.aureus* organisms may be attributed to the difference in the outer membrane of both isolates. Gram-negative bacteria possesses high permeability barrier for numerous antibiotic molecules similarly for these extracts. Their periplasmic space also contains enzymes, which are capable of breaking down foreign molecules and appears to be less susceptible to plant extracts than gram positive bacteria. (Duffy and Power, 2001)

Of all microorganisms used in this study, *S. aureus* (ST) had the highest susceptibility with chloroform extracts. This is an indication that the extract could be a good first line basis for drug production with high potency against infection by this bacterium. In this study most of tested bacteria showed MIC value of 15 mg/ml, followed by 30 mg/ml. This is an indication that most part of the bioactive compounds, which is found in this plant is non polar

Chapter 5 -Conclusions and Recommendation

Traditional medicine has been used and continues to be an alternative approach on treatment for various diseases. Currently, the growing interest of consumers in substances of natural origin in association with the increasing concern surrounding potentially harmful infections and disease has directed to a rising interest in the use of plant extracts as functional ingredients in many pharmaceutical products.

As described in literature review based on the physiological activity of the plant secondary metabolites classified as saponins, tannins, terpenes, alkaloids, flavonoids, etc. The phytochemical screening tests for the major secondary metabolites were performed in this research work. From the study, the leaves extract was found to contain saponins, tannins, terpenoids, phenols, alkaloids and steroids and cardiac glycoside. The presence of these important phytochemicals in the plant is a scientific justification of the plant use in the traditional treatment against various diseases affecting humans and animals. The presence of these phytochemicals in this plant enhances their pharmaceutical and therapeutic potentials.

The antimicrobial properties of *Croton macrostachyus* based on relevant research reports. Solvent extracts of *C. macrostachyus* inhibited both Gram positive and Gram negative bacteria. But ethyle acetate and essential oil inhibited the growth of the antibiotic sensitive strain of E.coli. Essential oil obtained by hydro-distillation inhibited some strains of the studied bacteria and fungi enhanced the effect of some of the antibiotics used in the studies.

The antimicrobial activities of this extracts could be attributed to the presence of bioactive agents, which are either non-polar or semi polar, including, among others, tannins, alkaloids, saponins, flavonoids, steroids, and terpenoids that act individually or collectively. The results show that the extracts of *C. macrostachyus* could be used as alternative means in pharmacotherapy of bacterial infections. They could be also used as adjuvant agents in antibiotic therapy against pathogenic bacterial infections (Nascimento *et al.*, 2000). After successive solvent extraction and column chromatography two compounds were isolated from the plant leaves. From these isolated compounds, only one compound coded as CM-F40 characterized as tetrahydro-2-(hydroxymethyl)-6-(tetrahydro-3,4-dihydroxy-2,5bis (hydroxymethyl) furan-2-yloxy)-2H-pyran-3,4,5-triol,

As the researchers' observed during analysis of chemical component, the plant is rich with different secondary metabolites.. Further studies are needed on this plant under study to characterize and elucidate structures of more bioactive compounds. In addition to this the following recommendations were made.

- ✚ There is need for conducting more studies to identify and characterize the medicinal principles in the tested this plant, which may serve as novel compounds for development of new and more effective antimicrobial drugs. This would prove very useful especially in this era when drug resistance is a major issue
- ✚ This plant should be studied more extensively to explore its activity on other organisms like other bacteria species, protozoa and helminthes among others.
- ✚ Toxicity studies of the plant should also be done to determine the safety indices of the extract
- ✚ InVivo studies of the fractions should be done to possible mechanism of actions

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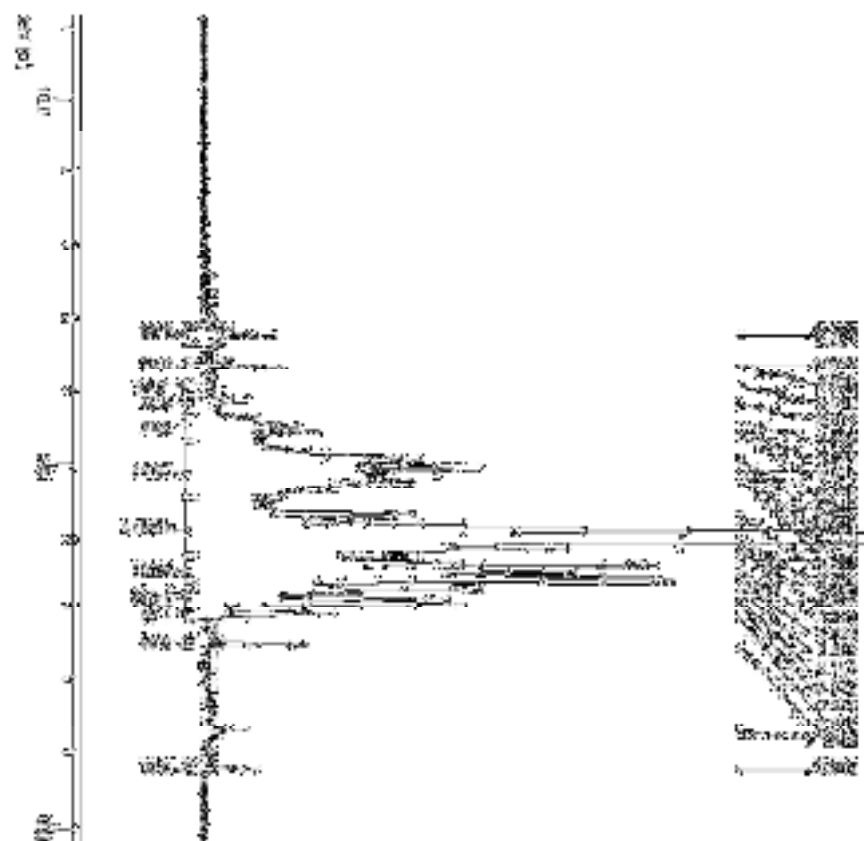
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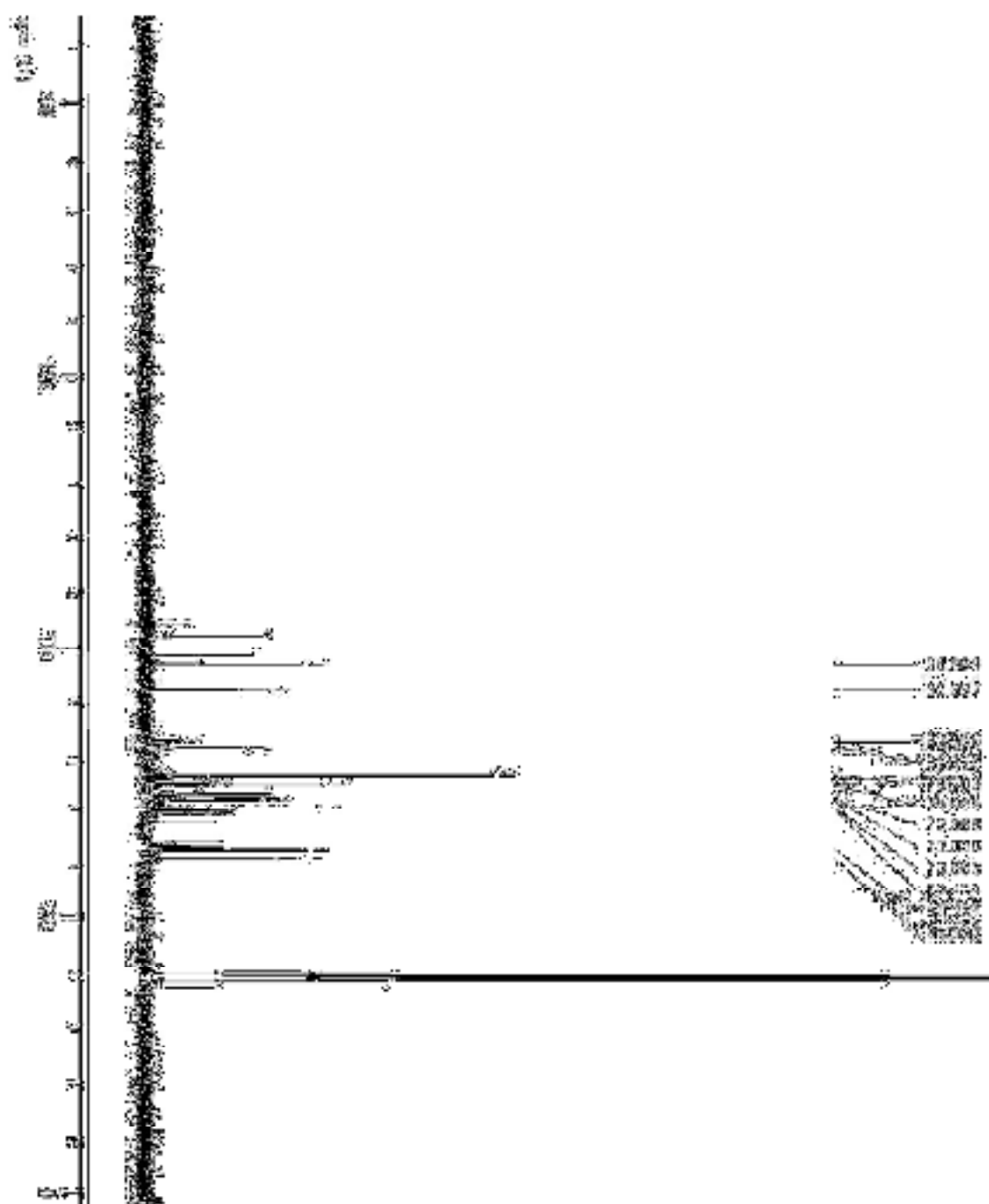
APPENDIX

APPENDIX 1:- ¹H-NMR spectrum of compound 1



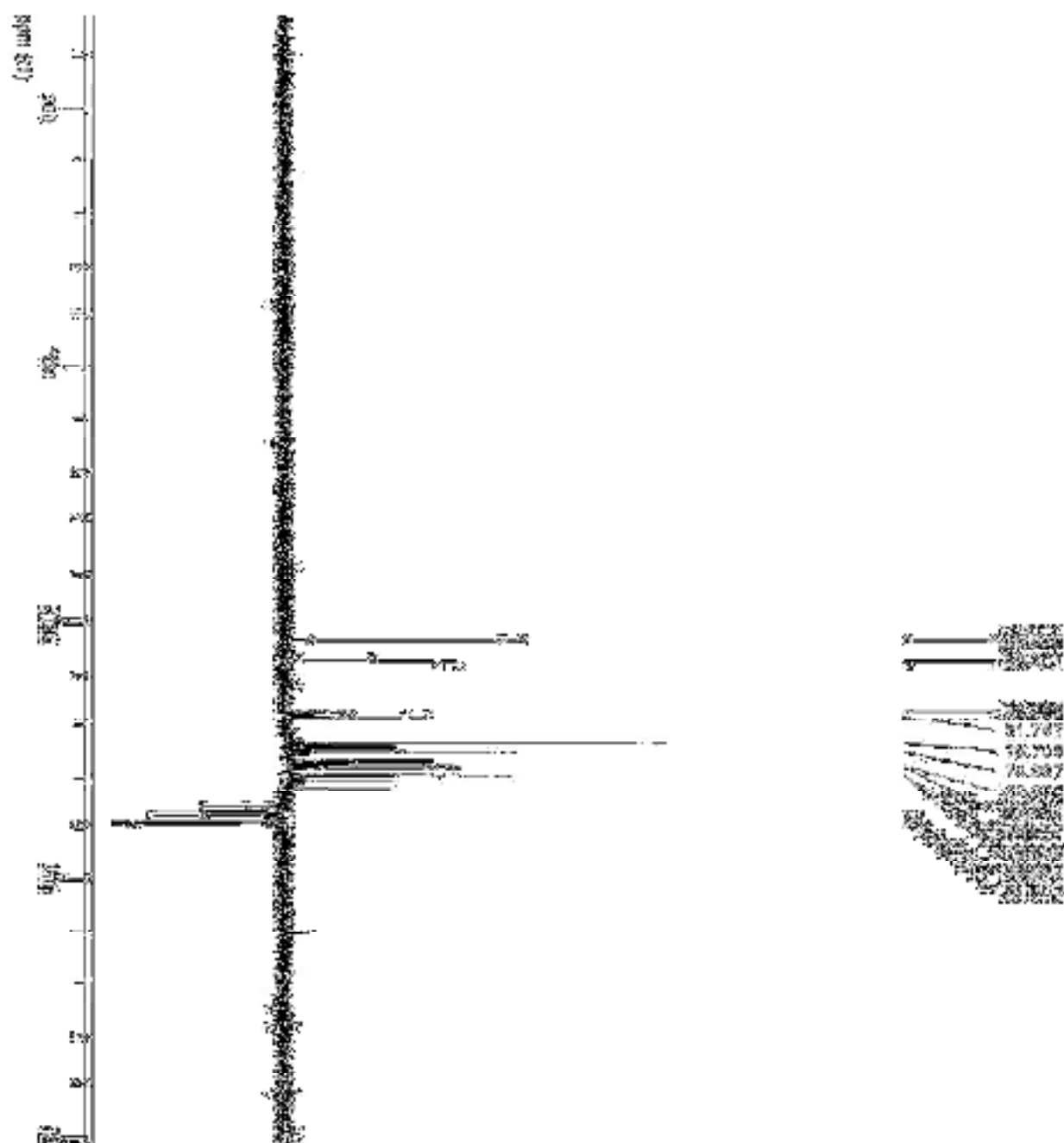
APPENDIX 2:

^{13}C -NMR spectrum of compound 1

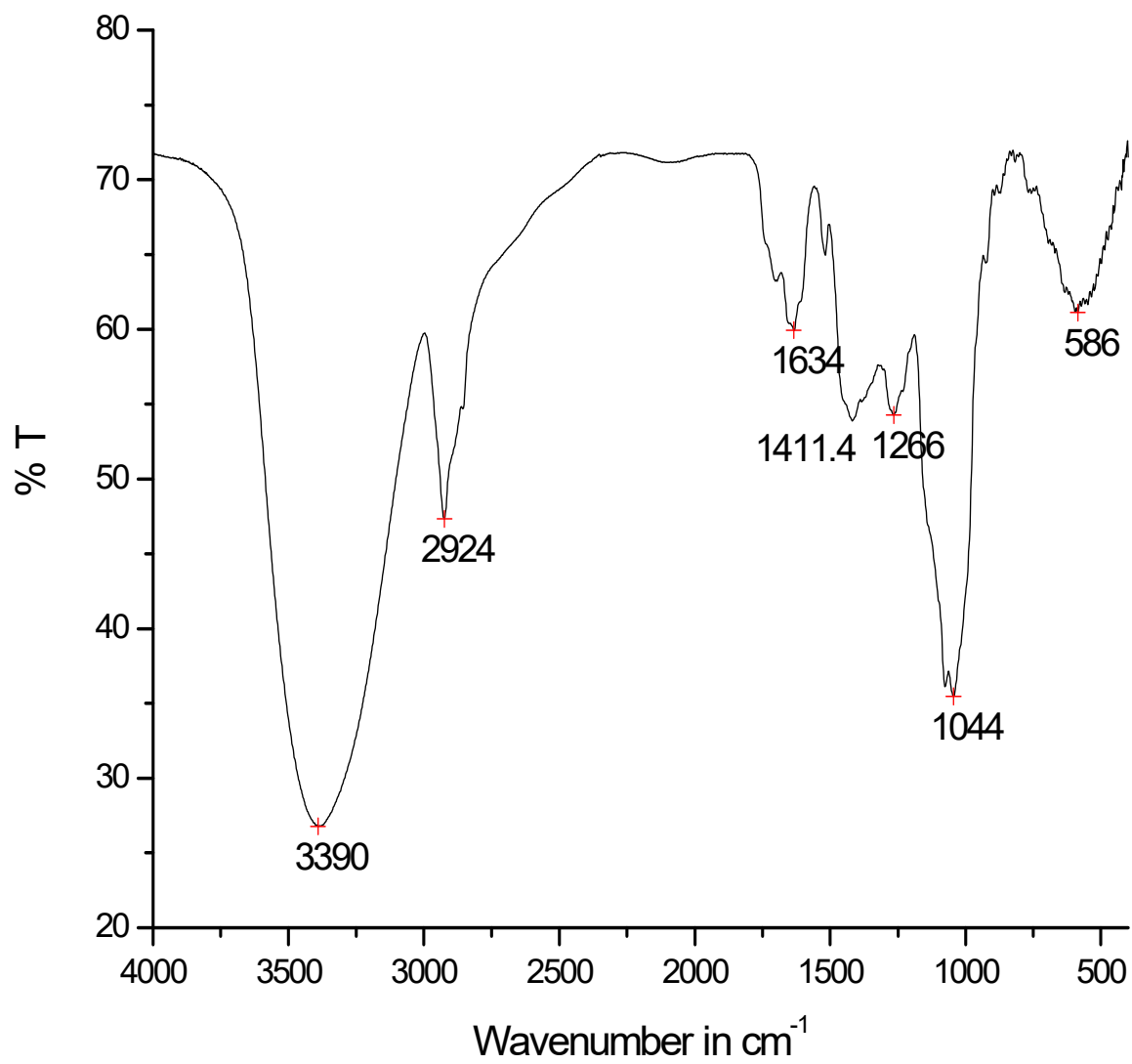


APPENDIX 3:

DEPT-135 spectrum of compound 1



IR spectrum of F-40



APPENDIX 4: IR spectrum of compound CM-F14

: Plant Collection form

Name of plant	Local name of plant	Parts of plant collected	place of collection
<i>Croton macrostachyus</i> <i>Del</i>	bissana	Leaf	Negalle borena

2: Pictures of plant used in the chemistry and biology Activity tests



3: Plant material preparation

- ☐ Collected plant parts were washed with distilled water to remove dirt and soil particles.
- ☐ The plant was cut into small pieces, spread out on paper sheets, dried in a shaded area at room temperature. ☐ Completely desiccated plant parts were powdered finely.

4: Crude extraction procedure

- ✓ Powdered plant material weighed, transferred in separate flask and extracting agent added.
- ✓ Each flask containing plant material and extracting agent shaken for 24h by automatic orbital shaker.
- ✓ The mixture was later strained using a muslin cloth and filtered using a Whatman filter paper (No. 1: 125mm).
- ✓ The filtrate was concentrated in a vacuum rotary evaporator and was evaporated to dryness in an air oven at 40°C.

5: Oil extraction method

